

Message Text

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MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: DISCUSSION WITH UK REP ROSE JANUARY 2, 1974

REF: LONDON 00044

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION JANUARY 2, UK MBFR REP ROSE GAVE DEPUTY US REP HIS VIEWS ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES. END SUMMARY.

1. UK REP SAID HE FELT THAT PLENARY SESSION MEETINGS SHOULD BE CUT TO ONE A WEEK FROM OUTSET OF THE NEW SESSION. PRESENT SCHEDULE OF TWO PLENARIES WEEKLY HAD BEEN USEFUL TO GET ALLIED POSITION ESTABLISHED, BUT THIS WAS NOW DONE, AND SCHEDULE IMPOSED EXCESSIVE LOAD ON AD HOC GROUP, PRECLUDING OTHER USEFUL WORK. ROSE SAID CONTENT OF THE FUTRE P*ENARIES SHOULD IN HIS VIEW CONTINUE TO BE STRAIGHTFORWARD PRESENTATION OF ALLIED PROGRAM FOR PHASE I FOCUSING ON THE TWO MAIN TLEMENTS OF

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PHASE I: TANK ARMY REDUCTION PROPOSAL AND COMMON

CEILING, WITH STABILIZING MEASURES FOLDED INTO PRESENTATION AT APPROPRIATE POINT AFTER WORK ON THEM WAS COMPLETED IN BRUSSELS. WHATEVER NEW DETAILS AND ARGUMENTS COULD BE THOUGHT UP SHOULD BE ADDED TO ALLIED PRESENTATIONS.

2. UK REP THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY, FOLLOWING AD HOC GROUP REPORT TO NAC SCHEDULED FOR JAN 25, TO GO OVER TO MODIFIED SYSTEM OF ONE PLENARY EVERY TWO WEEKS WITH ONE OR MORE DISCUSSION MEETINGS BY EMISSARIES TAKING PLACE IN THE INTERVENING WEEK. HE SAID UK ENVISAGES EMISSARY TEAM COMPOSED OF THREE ALLIED REPS: US REP AS PERMANENT MEMBER, UK AND FRG ROTATING ON ONE POSITION, AND CANADA, BELGIUM AND NETHERLANDS ROTATING ON THIRD. FLANKS COULD BE TOLD THAT ONE OF THEIR REPS COULD BE INCLUDED IN SPECIAL CASES WHEN SUBJECT MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED WAS OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THEM. IN SUCH CASES, THIRD ALLIED REP IN ADDITION TO US REP WOULD BE DRAWN BY LOT FROM AMONG DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. ROSE THOUGHT ALLIES MIGHT SUPPORT THIS APPROACH ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT FIRST BE NECESSARY TO TRY OUT OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP. HE BELIEVED LATTER MODE WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE SINCE IT WOULD IN EFFECT BE A PLENARY UNDER DIFFERENT LABEL.

3. ROSE BELIEVED EMISSARIES SHOULD CARRY OUT DETAILED PROBE OF SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD ALL ASPECTS OF ALLIED PROGRAM FOR PHASE I THROUGH ENGAGING IN MORE INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF MAIN POINTS PRESENTED BY ALLIES IN PRECEDING PLENARY. ROSE SAID HE WOULD LIKE IN EMISSARY DISCUSSIONS TO CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE CARDINAL POINT THAT PRESENT EAST-WEST FORCE RELATIONSHIP WAS NOT RPT NOT AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR REDUCTIONS. EMISSARIES SHOULD TAKE A SOMEWHAT MORE CRITICAL LINE AS REGARDS THE SOVIET PROPOSAL OF NOVEMBER 8, POINTING OUT ITS SHORTCOMINGS MORE DIRECTLY THAN HERETOFORE. BLAND STYLE OF PLENARIES THUS FAR HAD BEEN USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO GOOD WORKING ATMOSPHERE, BUT, PARTICULARLY IN EMISSARY SESSIONS, ALLIES SHOULD NOT PULL THEIR PUNCHES ON DISPARITIES THEME, SHORTCOMINGS OF SOVIET PROPOSAL, AND FACT THAT IN RECENT YEARS SOVIETS HAD INCREASED THEIR
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FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. ROSE SAID THAT, IN LATTER CONNECTION, HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE USE OF DATA AVAILABLE ON INDIVIDUAL SOVIET DIVISIONS TO INDICATE ALLIED KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR INCREASE OVER PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS. HE APPARENTLY DID NOT AT THIS POINT ENVISAGE DIRECT ALLIED EFFORT TO COME TO AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS ON COMMON DATA BASE, BUT RATHER A SELECTIVE USE OF SPECIFIC DATA ITEMS TO UNDERPIN ALLIED ARGUMENTS.

4. ROSE SAID HE BELIEVED EMISSARY SESSIONS COULD ALSO BE USED TO PROBE SOVIETS FURTHER AS REGARDS SOVIET READINESS TO AGREE TO TWO-PHASE NEGOTIATION AND FOCUS ON US-SOVIET FORCES IN FIRST PHASE, PROVIDED THAT ALLIED PLENARY PRESENTATIONS MADE CLEAR TO EAST THAT ALLIED ALSO CONTINUED TO ATTACH EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO COMMON CEILING OBJECTIVE AND THAT EMISSARIES DID NOT DEFINITELY USE UP LEVERAGE WHICH COULD LATER BE APPLIED TO GAIN SOVIET CONSENT TO COMMON CEILING FOR PURPOSE OF GRADUALLY BRINGING SOVIETS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON GROUNDS OF THE ALLIED PROPOSAL.

5. ROSE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO UK FONOFF, WHICH HE BELIEVED NOW SHARED HIS POINT, THAT IN LIGHT OF INDICATIONS OF SOVIET INTEREST IN WESTERN EUROPEAN FORCES, PARTICULARLY BUNDESWEHR, IT WAS FRUITLESS TO CONTINUE TO HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL MBFR NEGOTIATION CONFINED TO A SINGLE PHASE OF US-SOVIET REDUCTIONS WITH NO COVERAGE OF EUROPEAN FORCES, A CONSIDERATION WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ONE ELEMENT OF UK POSITION ON THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. IN HIS VIEW, IT WOULD BE AGREED THAT EUROPEAN FORCES WOULD EITHER BE COVERED IN THE OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS OR THERE WOULD BE NO ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT ON PHASE I REDUCTIONS. ROSE POINT OUT THAT THIS LINE OF THOUGHT ACCOUNTED FOR INCREASED UK INTEREST IN GAINING EASTERN AGREEMENT TO THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT. WIGGIN MADE SIMILAR REMARK TO US DEPREP DURING BRIEF VISIT DESCRIBED IN LONDON 00044. IF THESE REMARKS CAN BE TAKEN AT THEIR FACE VALUE, AND INCREASE IN UK INTEREST IN COMMON CEILING IS ONE INDICATION THAT THEY SHOULD BE, THEY MAY INDICATE FURTHER STEP TOWARD UK ACCEPTANCE OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

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AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR UK AND WESTERN EUROPE.

6. ROSE SAID THAT PRIOR TO OR AFTER EASTER BREAK, WHICH MIGHT LAST FROM MID-APRIL THROUGH FIRST WEEK IN MAY, IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FOR ALLIES TO MOVE TALKS AHEAD BY HINTING AT SUCH MATTERS AS POSSIBLE READINESS, IF TALKS DEVELOPED FAVORABLY, TO DEAL WITH NUCLEARS, TO INCLUDE AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN COMMON CEILING, IF STUDIES NOW IN PROGRESS IN UK SHOWED THIS COURSE TO BE FEASIBLE, AND TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE DEFINITE ABOUT POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF EUROPEAN FORCES, INCLUDING BUNDESWEHR IN PHASE 2. HOWEVER, WHETHER AND HOW TO DO THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED IN LIGHT OF THE ACTUAL COURSE OF THE TALKS UP TO THAT POINT. ROSE THOUGHT ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO GET DOWN TO HARD CASES WITH SOVIETS BY SUMMER, BEING MORE DEFINITE ABOUT THEIR

POSITION ON TOPICS LISTED ABOVE, IF THERE WERE TO BE
PROSPECT OF REACHING AGREEMENT WITHIN A YEAR OR SO.HUMES

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